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## PATENT APPLICATION

Serial No. 09/744,424

Attorney Docket No. 1217-010064

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit 2831 :

In re Application of :

TOSHIYUKI NAKAMURA ET AL. :

Serial No. 09/744,424 :

Filed January 24, 2001 :

Examiner - Not Yet Assigned :

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

May 3, 2001

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO-1449 and a copy of each reference cited.

An English-language Abstract is provided for one of the three Japanese references. All of the references are discussed on pages 6 and 7 of the instant specification and are relevant for the reasons discussed therein.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 3, 2001.

Kent E. Baldauf, Registration No. 25,826

(Name of Registered Representative)

Signature

05/03/2001

Date

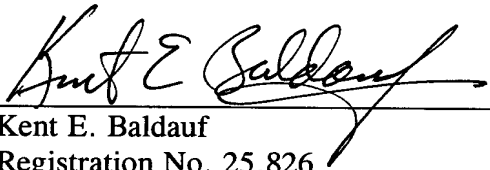
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No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement as it is being submitted before a first Office Action on the merits. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. The original and two copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON  
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